

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/20/2009 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 7, Harel (US 6,128,472) teaches a response signal relay configured to receive a plural response signals from plural of the mobile stations in the multicast group (Col. 2 line 62-Col. 3 line 9 and Col. 4 line 36-Col. 5 line 12), receive a subsequent response signal to the common control signal from a second mobile station in the multicast group (Col. 2 line 62-Col. 3 line 9 and Col. 4 line 36-Col. 5 line 12), and the subsequent response signal received after the plural response signals, transfer only the plural response signals 440 (Fig. 4), and retain (sent to message processor) the subsequent response signal to the common control signal (Col. 2 line 62-Col. 3 line 9 and Col. 4 line 36-Col. 5 line 12).

Gosselin (WO 01/65885) teaches a control signal relay configured to transmit a common control signal to mobile stations in a multicast group (Page 4 line 30-Page 5

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line 15); and a response signal relay configured to receive a predetermined number of response signals to the common control signal from plural of the mobile stations in the multicast group (Page 4 line 30-Page 5 line 15), receive a subsequent response signal to the common control signal from a second mobile station in the multicast group (Page 4 line 30-Page 5 line 15).

The prior art of record fails to teach a communication system comprising a base station; plural mobile stations; the plural mobile stations each configured to receive a common control signal from the base station, hold a response signal for a random duration, the response signal is created in response to the common control signal, and transmit the response signal after the random duration; and the base station configured to receive plural response signals from plural mobile stations included in a multicast group, the number of the plural response signals is at least one, receive subsequent response signals from other of the plural mobile stations included in the multicast group, transfer only the plural response signals received from the plural mobile stations included in the multicast group, and retain the subsequent response signals received from the other of the plural mobile stations included in the multicast group.

Further applicant remarks filed on 4/23/2009 further states reasons for allowance.

Regarding claim 8, method claim 8 is allowed for the same reason as system claim 7 since the recited elements would perform the claimed steps.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW WENDELL whose telephone number is (571)272-0557. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 571-272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nay A. Maung/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2618

/Andrew Wendell/
Examiner, Art Unit 2618

11/8/2009